AP US History

Chapter 11 Questions

1. Discuss the relationship between the principles of American capitalism and the spread of cotton and slavery, as well as the interdependence of the north and south.

The relationship between the principles of American Capitalism and the spread of cotton and slavery was a perfect one, and the North and the South were dependent of each other. Nearly most if not all of the plantations consisting of cotton and slaves was for mainly self-interest, cotton was a high profit material and now vast quantities could be made faster and easier with slaves and the cotton gin. There was competition nonetheless, there were many plantations throughout Deep South, however since there was a very high demand for cotton, plantations could survive without competition. The North was very dependent on the South, mainly with their textile machines, they needed the cotton the South had and the South could be a little less dependent than the North from their goods, they had other nations in Europe supplying them goods too.

1. Describe the overall relationship between the North and the South in the early to mid 1800s.

The relationship between the North and the South were very much unlike each other, the North had many industries, the South didn’t, the South had an agrarian society, the North, a more modern one, and the North had an adequate transportation system while the South didn’t. Most importantly the South continued to have slavery and the North didn’t creating a slightly bad factor in their relationship, but not too much at the time. The North had a dependency on the South and the South had a dependency on the North, creating a positive factor in their relationship. Overall their relationship was a good one at this time, but eventually the abolitionists will tear that apart…

1. Describe southern society and culture (make sure to discuss both the socioeconomic hierarchy and the role of women).

Southern society and culture followed a part of the “Cavalier Image”. The top of the social pyramid were the planter elites with large/massive plantations and a large amount of slaves, next the smaller farmers, but had a good amount of land and some slaves, next the “Hill people” who didn’t own slaves and used subsistent farming who didn’t contribute to the Southern economy – they formed the majority of the Southern population, free blacks who ironically may have been in a tighter spot than their slave counterparts, and finally normal slaves (African-American) where they often lived near plantations, some in their masters’ home. Some culture they had was their system of “honor” where the conflicting sides dueled for their honor and (whites who owned slaves) young slaves doing tasks in their master’s home and playing with their children. The role of white women was but a small and unimportant one than in the North, they received minimal education, did not have any jobs, and were treated unfairly and a bit like children, they were more of a gem to their husbands.

1. What was slavery like in cities and what was life like for free African Americans?

Slavery was incompatible with city life and life was not easy for freed African Americans (in the South). The conditions of slavery were very different than in the countryside. Slaves could not be supervised often and not used adequately for profit. They ran various errands around the city having the opportunity to interact with free blacks and whites, unlike in plantations. As Southern cities grew, slavery in them declined; also there was an increase in segregation in cities. Slaves became free after they were either released by their masters or bought their freedom. A very small majority of free AA (African Americans) had actually become wealthy and well. Some AA had developed free black communities that flourished; some AA had slaves of their own. The majority of free AA were, however were poor, jobless, and many restraints on them life for them was probably harder than a slave’s.